

HEIDI HEITKAMP
NORTH DAKOTA
HART SENATE BUILDING 110
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PH: 202-224-2043
FAX: 202-224-7776
TOLL FREE: 1-800-223-4457

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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September 21, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

I am writing in regards to the Department of Commerce's ongoing antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia. The issue requires your important leadership in examining foreign subsidy programs to ensure that a level playing field exists for our domestic producers of biodiesel. I urge you to consider the need for price adjustments and calculations to guard against subsidized foreign production.

There are nearly 300 domestic producers across America that are affected by foreign imports of biodiesel, including the 85 million gallon capacity Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM) facility in Velva, North Dakota. This facility provides a stable market for canola farmers as 65 percent of our canola grown in North Dakota is used in ADM's biodiesel production. In 2016, American biodiesel producers refined 1.5 billion gallons of biodiesel, a volume that has risen steadily over nearly two decades. We must work to protect our domestic production growth and allow consumers to access a cleaner, cost effective, American made fuel option.

Investigating the dumping of subsidized biodiesel from foreign entities is also an important issue to the 21,000 American farmers who grow and supply the feedstock for our biofuel producers. These farmers need a stable and productive market to continue to economically grow biodiesel feedstock instead of a depressed market due to foreign dumping. The combined effect of this dumping and subsidization has been a surge of biodiesel imports from Argentina and Indonesia of over 450 percent from 2014 to 2016. That growth has taken 18.3 percentage points of market share from U.S. producers. The resulting trade imbalance has been at the expense of American farmers, workers, and biodiesel.

It is important for the United States to support biofuels and the Renewable Fuel Standard in our pursuit of an all-of-the-above energy strategy. We must ensure a level playing field for American biodiesel producers in order to strengthen and grow this new and important industry.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

BISMARCK OFFICE:
228 FEDERAL BUILDING
220 EAST ROSSER AVENUE
BISMARCK, ND 58501
PH: 701-258-4648
FAX: 701-258-1254

DICKINSON OFFICE:
40 1ST AVENUE WEST
SUITE 202
DICKINSON, ND 58601
PH: 701-225-0974
FAX: 701-225-3287

FARGO OFFICE:
306 FEDERAL BUILDING
657 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
FARGO, ND 58102
PH: 701-232-8030 - 1-800-223-4457
FAX: 701-232-6449

GRAND FORKS OFFICE:
33 S. 3RD ST., SUITE B
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
PH: 701-775-9601
FAX: 701-746-1990

MINOT OFFICE:
105 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 FIRST STREET S.W.
MINOT, ND 58701
PH: 701-852-0703
FAX: 701-838-8196